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## Dawnbreaker Vol 64 No 3 (Spring 2018)

Dawnbreaker Staff

*Maine Division - American Association of University Women*

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### Message from the President

The calendar tells me that spring has sprung. I wish the temperature agreed. I'm hoping by the time our state convention gets here next month we will all be able to see flowers blooming and buds on the trees, and wear sandals.

Speaking of our state convention; it's happening April 28<sup>th</sup> with the Bath/Brunswick branch hosting. We have a great lineup of speakers. There will be a lot of information at the end of this newsletter about convention. Plan to join us. Thank you Bath/Brunswick for all of your work in hosting us!

I want to make sure you are all aware of the voting that will open on April 25, 2018, and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m.



AAUW has proposed the following amendments:

- Proposal 1 - Staggered terms of office for AAUW Board of Directors on a 3-year rotation
- Proposal 2 – Eliminating the AAUW membership requirement for AAUW Board of Directors
- Proposal 3 – Eliminating the degree requirement for membership in AAUW

You may recognize proposal number 3 since we just voted on this before the national convention in June 2017. The national Board strongly supports all three amendments. Maine AAUW has always sided with the

elimination of the degree requirement and I hope that it passes. Sadly, with the vote before convention there were not enough votes to pass, but worse, there weren't enough votes to meet quorum. Even if we had received the majority of votes, not enough of the membership even voted. This fact alone boggles my mind. But I know we won't be like that! We will vote and we will vote big! At convention we will have computers available so people can vote at convention. **Make sure you have your AAUW member ID number with you.**

At state convention you will also be voting for new AAUW of Maine officers. I want to thank all the members who volunteer their time and talents to AAUW and keep our little corner of the U.S. humming. I have been impressed, awed, and humbled by these women. I have seen them use their knowledge, strengths, and passion to advocate, learn, and grow.

Keep reaching towards the sun and feeling the warmth on your face.

Best regards,  
Dora McCarthy

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### Nominating Committee Report by Dora McCarthy

The following candidates are nominated for 2-year terms (2018-2020):

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • President                 | Carly McCarthy<br>(Waterville Branch)      |
| • Membership Vice President | Dora McCarthy<br>(Penobscot Valley Branch) |
| • Corresponding Secretary   | _____                                      |

The following candidate is nominated to fill the second year of a 2-year term (2018-2019):

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| • Program Vice President | Andrea Mercado<br>(Penobscot Valley Branch) |
|--------------------------|---|

In addition, Moriah Geer, a new national member who will join the Penobscot Valley Branch, has agreed to be Public Policy Chair, an appointed position.

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## Achievement Citation Award

by Mary Cathcart

The Penobscot Valley Branch is proud that one of our members, Emily Cain of Orono, is the recipient of Maine's American Association of University Women Achievement Citation Award 2018. There are many reasons we chose Emily, and we know other AAUW of Maine branches will concur that she is an excellent recipient.



Courtesy of EMILY's List.

Emily Cain, first elected to the Maine House of Representatives at age 24, has made her mark in Maine politics, serving in both the House and Senate for five terms, leading the Appropriations Committee as Chair, and serving as the youngest House Minority Leader in state history. In 2012, against all odds, Emily led House Democrats back into the majority by recruiting top candidates, electing more women, and winning tough seats in Maine's challenging rural areas. As a leader in the Legislature Emily was known as a tough negotiator, deal closer, and champion for women, equality, domestic violence prevention, education, and economic development. In 2014 and 2016 Emily ran for U.S. Congress in two of the most competitive House races in the country. As a candidate and leader of her party, Emily knocked on thousands of doors and travelled thousands of miles across rural Maine, listening to the stories of working people.

In July 2017, Emily Cain was appointed executive director of EMILY's List, the nation's largest resource for women in politics, where she will recruit and support pro-choice women to run for office. The organization stated, "Emily brings to EMILY's List the perspective of someone who has been on the ground listening to voters, earning votes in tough places." Emily's work will be based out of the organization's Washington, D.C., office, but she will continue to live in Orono, Maine, with her husband Danny.

The daughter of a shoe salesman and a sign language interpreter, Emily is the oldest of three sisters and learned at a very young age the value of hard work, family, and education. Emily is married to Danny Williams, Executive Director of the Collins Center for the Arts at the University of Maine, and has lived in Maine most of her life. She was born in Kentucky, spent her childhood years in Illinois and New Jersey, and is a graduate of the University of Maine and Harvard University.

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## Increasing Membership—A #1 Priority

by Membership VP Betty-Jane Meader

Another year of AAUW membership is coming to a close. As I end my four-years (two two-year terms) as the AAUW of Maine membership vice president, I wish to reflect on those years and to look to the future.

Despite attempts to encourage branch membership vice presidents and members to increase membership, AAUW membership in Maine has been decreasing. This past year, the Bath-Brunswick Branch had 57 members compared to 71 last year, the Waterville Branch had 45 members versus 52 in 2016-2017, the Penobscot Valley Branch had 34 members compared to 37 the previous year, and the Hancock County Branch had nine members (one less than the year before). The Caribou Branch maintained its membership of 14.

How can we increase membership? When you meet other women, do you share our mission and invite them to branch programs? Do you send them your monthly newsletter and offer to take them to a meeting? Some women are uncomfortable entering a meeting room with unfamiliar faces. This past year, the Bath-Brunswick Branch had four new members, the Waterville Branch had two new members, and the Penobscot Valley Branch had one new member.

When prospective members show interest in joining AAUW, remind them dues paid after March 15 cover the remainder of 2018 and the year 2019. After 10 years, national dues have increased to \$59. State dues are \$15, and branch dues vary from one branch to another. Since dues in professional organizations are typically \$200+, AAUW dues are reasonable.

Starting now, be determined to increase membership in the coming year. If each member convinced one person to join our organization, AAUW membership would double!

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**Maine Women’s Day at the State House**  
Alliance for Maine Women and Partners

The Alliance for Maine Women is a broad network of organizations working to ensure that all Mainers have the economic, social, and political power to make decisions about their bodies, sexuality, health, and families—with an emphasis on securing these rights for Maine women. The Alliance for Maine Women brings together members with diverse expertise and experiences who understand that all people in Maine benefit when Maine women have the right to economic security and reproductive justice (including access to abortion), and can live their lives with agency, autonomy, and freedom from violence. Members of the Alliance for Maine Women work to achieve this through legislative and legal advocacy, community organizing, and public education.

AAUW, represented by Betty-Jane Meader and Lynda Kinley, both Waterville Branch members, was among the 20 organizations to table in the Hall of Flags on February 1, 2018.

Lynda Kinley speaks with Rep. John Picchiotti on Maine Women’s Day at the State House.



Courtesy of Betty-Jane Meader.

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**Support Your Local Girls at a Great Summer Camp!**

by Cathy Bevier, State Chair of STEM initiatives

Here’s a reminder about summer camp at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM) in Limestone, Maine (<http://www.mssm.org/summer-programs/summer-camp>). This is a great opportunity to explore interests in science. There’s a particular need to recruit more girls to attend either of the one-week sessions.

Your chapter can recruit and help sponsor girls from your area. You can contact the summer camp staff via email ([mssmsummercamp@mssm.org](mailto:mssmsummercamp@mssm.org)) or phone (207-325-3600) and plan to contribute directly to the MSSM Foundation with funds earmarked for the chosen girls.

Last year the Caribou and Waterville branches were successful in recruiting several girls and helped to cover the fees. The two girls who attended from the Waterville area were very grateful for the experience. One writes, “Thank you so much for giving me this scholarship. I had a wonderful experience at camp and I wouldn’t have been able to have it without your generosity...This fun filled week was all because of your kindness.” The other girl was just as enthusiastic: “Thank you Waterville AAUW for giving me the opportunity to come to camp. I greatly appreciate it. This was such a great time here and I probably wouldn’t have been able to do this without you. I am now aware of this school/summer camp. I hope I can go next year as well.”

Feel free to contact me ([crbevier@colby.edu](mailto:crbevier@colby.edu)) with any questions.



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### Bylaws Update

by Judy Dinmore, Bylaws Chair

The AAUW National Board of Directors has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. Please go to AAUW's national web site: [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) to learn more and vote. Comments and proposals are being accepted, as well. The proposed amendments address: 1) creating three-year staggered board terms, 2) opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and 3) eliminating the degree requirement for membership. The board strongly supports the proposed amendments. Members can comment on the proposed amendments and submit their own proposals from February 22, 2018, through March 22, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 25, 2018, and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET. All members are encouraged to vote.

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### The Meaning and Importance of Diversity

by Diversity Chair Betty-Jane Meader

What does diversity mean and why does it matter to AAUW? Simply stated, diversity means difference. Several kinds of difference exist: race, ethnicity, gender orientation, age, religion, physical abilities, socioeconomic stratum, political beliefs, etc. Inclusion of individuals with differences yields valuable and actionable conversations in our organization.

At Maine Women's Day at the State House, I met Zoe Sahloul, executive director of New England Arab American Organization (NEAAO). This energetic group of first-generation immigrants is passionate about their mission of "bridging the culture gap for a healthier, better integrated community." Currently, NEAAO is focused on Westbrook, where the Arab immigrant population has risen sharply. Women, in particular, are isolated and fear being judged or harmed because of their different appearance and culture. How can AAUW help? We can

send tax-deductible donations, support their events, become a volunteer or spread the word about their services. Also, we can invite women like Sahloul to join AAUW or to speak at our branch meetings.

The February program of the Waterville Branch featured guest speaker Dr. Catherine Besterman, who discussed working with Somali Bantu immigrants in Lewiston. She worked in Somalia in the 1990s and left the area when the militias began attacking the villages. After the Somali Bantus settled in Maine, Besterman reunited with villagers she knew. Currently, she is involved with community building through outreach and education. Her presentation educated AAUW members about the culture of Somalians.

Immigrants are an integral part of Maine's diverse communities. As AAUW members, we must embrace diversity. Please send the name and email address of the 2018-2019 diversity chair in your branch to me at [meaderb@gmail.com](mailto:meaderb@gmail.com).

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### Funds Update

2017 Calendar Year

<b>Total donations to AAUW from Maine</b>	<b>\$5,140.45</b>
AAUW of Maine	\$1,328.00
Penobscot Valley Branch	\$185.00
Waterville Branch	\$1,200.00
Individuals from all branches	\$2,427.45

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### Historian's Report

by Betsy Eggleston

An interesting change is coming to the way we archive our AAUW state records. The last several years most of our state documents have been sent to me in a digital format. These documents include our state meeting agendas and minutes, 'Dawnbreakers', annual reports, financial records, bylaws, state officer rosters, etc.

Since most of the documents are in digital form already, they will be put on a thumb drive to give to the AAUW state archival material at the Special Collections at the University of Maine in Orono. Details of this plan are underway with the Special Collections department.

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Kristin Sweeney (Bath-Brunswick Branch), Dora McCarthy (Penobscot Valley Branch), and Betty-Jane Meader (Waterville Branch) spent a challenging day as mentors at the rescheduled **Girls' Day at the State House** on March 23, 2018.

\*\*\*\*\*

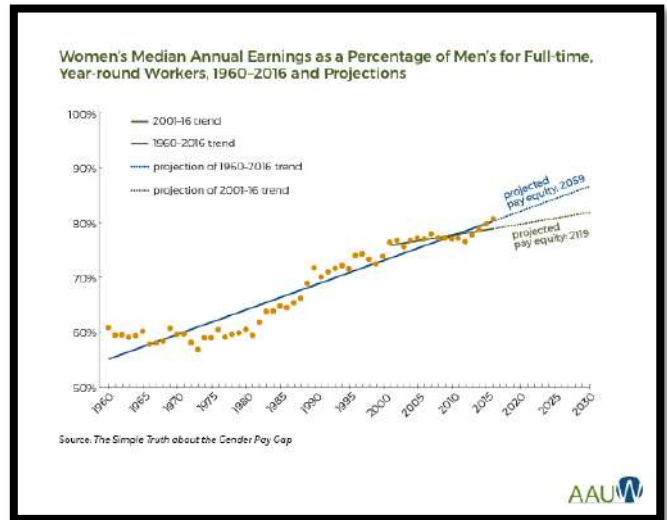
## IMPORTANT DATES

- April 10, 2018 Equal Pay Day
- April 26, 2018 Maine Women's Fund  
11:30 – 2:00 Leadership Luncheon  
Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland
- April 27, 2018 AAUW of Maine board meeting,  
2:00 – 4:00 Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick
- April 27, 2018 AAUW of Maine social gathering  
5:00 – 7:00 Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick
- April 28, 2018 AAUW of Maine Annual Convention  
The Daniel, 10 Water St., Brunswick
- May 30 - June 2, 2018 NCCWSL, University of Maryland,  
College Park, MD
- May 31 - June 5, 2018 Maine NEW Leadership  
University of Maine, Orono
- Oct. 4, 2018 Maine Women's Lobby-40<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
6 – 9: 00 p.m. UNE Innovation Hall  
772 Stevens Ave., Portland

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This online-only version updated for Spring 2018 provides AAUW members and activists with the most recent statistics and citations in time for Equal Pay Day on April 10.



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## Branching Out: News from Our Branches

### **Bath-Brunswick Branch**

by Sophie Whitehouse, Branch Secretary and Communications

Since the beginning of 2018 we have had 2 board meetings and 2 branch meetings. In January a group of branch members had an informal visit of the Bowdoin Museum led by Dr. Ann Goodyear and Dr. Frank Goodyear, co-directors of the Museum. We were treated to a wonderful tour of the exhibit of Soviet Propaganda Posters between World wars as well as the museum collection.

Our second branch event took place February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Curtis Library in Brunswick. We gathered in the older part of the library where Pamela Bobker, Adult Services Librarian, presented an entertaining survey of the history of the mystery: books on display, power point slides, and anecdotes from Edgar Allen Poe to the modern day British sleuths. Members brought their lunch for this "brown bag event." In fact, the brown bag lunch was so popular that we thought we could repeat it next year. We have 3 more events planned till the end of spring as well as hosting the State Convention in Brunswick at the end of April.

Our interest groups are still meeting regularly. The Growstown School program is reopening in April with 15 local 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes slated to visit for a day each to experience a 19<sup>th</sup> century school day. Our branch gained a few more members this winter. Some have joined or are ready to join for next year. Our annual branch meeting will take place at the end of April. We will be gearing up to organize programs for next year in late May. As a matter of fact, some members are already suggesting ideas for doing different things to attract new members, younger women who may or may not have heard of AAUW.

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### **News from the Caribou Branch**

by Mary Ayers, President

As in years past, the Caribou branch did not meet from November through March. However, the membership did gather in January for a post Christmas party. Everyone enjoyed good conversation, refreshments, and a humorous Yankee Swap during which members

exchanged wrapped gently used books. It was a fun way to recycle books and to discuss those that we had already read and enjoyed.

Our regular meeting cycle will start the first week in April. The branch will meet monthly through October. Included in the schedule of meetings for the upcoming season is a program at the Francis Malcolm Science Museum in Easton and a bird watching tour at the Wildlife Refuge Center in Limestone. In addition, the Caribou branch has arranged for a speaker to inform us about trends in the cost of higher education. In September the members will once again enjoy their annual potluck dinner. Our meeting season will conclude with a presentation on hot topics in public health.

We continue to invite women from our communities to attend programs that we feel may be of interest. Our branch believes that this is an effective way to increase membership and to meet other interesting women.

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### **Penobscot Valley Branch**

by Janet Givens, Liaison

The Penobscot Valley Branch is proud that branch member, Emily Cain, our Achievement Citation Award nominee, was selected to receive the AAUW of Maine Achievement Citation Award for 2018. She will speak at the April state convention.

On March 24, 2018, the Penobscot Valley Branch, in collaboration with the University of Maine Women in Academia, will present "Making a Difference in Challenging Times" at 11:00 a.m. at Dirigo Pines Inn, Orono. Representatives from five activist groups will speak - Maine League of Women Voters, Maine People's Alliance, Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, Food AND Medicine, and Literacy Volunteers of Bangor. We encourage members and friends of AAUW of Maine to attend this outstanding program. For more information call 852 -2137.

We are sad to announce that our branch can no longer have our annual book sale, our main fundraiser. It had become too labor intensive for our aging membership. In order to continue awarding scholarships to deserving women, we will pursue other fundraisers.

Our annual dinner meeting will be held on May 16, 2018 at Dirigo Pines Inn, Orono.

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## Hancock County Branch

by Betsy Eggleston, Liaison

Members of the Hancock County Branch met in February for a planning session at a local restaurant. In March, members joined Business Professional Women (BPW) and Delta Kappa Gamma for a women's history program. We have been meeting twice a year with these groups to share a meal and program. Judy Bragg spoke on Pioneer Women using her own ancestors as the basis of her talk. In April we will have our always-popular favorite books gathering. We share those books we have read with each other and then make up a list of these books for others to enjoy. In June is our annual meeting with a potluck and business meeting.

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## Waterville Branch

by Catherine Bevier and Jen Olsen, Co-Presidents

The Waterville Branch was disappointed to cancel our January meeting and hopes to reschedule a program on imposter syndrome from Dr. Shannon McCoy, Associate Professor of Psychology at University of Maine.

Dr. Catherine Besteman (Colby College, Department of Anthropology) gave an excellent and inspirational program in February about her advocacy work to fight human inequality and xenophobia. She draws from her research and mentoring with the Somali Bantu immigrants in Lewiston, ME. We found out that many of the members of this community, who started arriving in the early 2000s, were also part of the village and refugee camps Catherine visited in Somalia back in the 1990s! Her most important work now is to help with community building and equality through outreach and education.

We are excited about the March 21 program by Pat Burdick, Assistant Director for Special Collections at Colby College. We will meet at the Colby College library for an interactive, hands-on program that features the histories of the AAUW Waterville Branch; Ninetta Runnals, who joined the Colby faculty in 1920 and founded the Waterville Branch shortly thereafter; women at Colby; and women in the greater Waterville area.

We are planning an event to educate members of our Waterville community about the wage gap on Equal Pay Day, and will have lots of activity at our business meeting in April.

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## AAUW Dues Increased Effective March 16, 2018

The first dues change in almost a decade increased national dues from \$49 to \$59.

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Kristin Sweeney, Editor  
[sweeneykg@gmail.com](mailto:sweeneykg@gmail.com)





**2018 State Convention  
April 28, 2018  
The Daniel, 10 Water St., Brunswick, Maine**

**Wonder of Women Conference Focusing on Health**

- 8 a.m. Registration
- 8 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Business Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Registration for Conference
- 10:00 a.m. #MeToo and You – **Melanie Sachs**, Executive Director of Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)
- 11:00 a.m. Health Issues Facing LGBTQ+ – **Maddy Magnuson** – Director of LGBTQ+ and Harm Reduction Services of Health Equity Alliance
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Achievement Citation Award Recipient – **Emily Cain**, Executive Director of EMILY's List
- 1:15 p.m. Basket Raffle
- 1:45 p.m. Opioid Crisis in Maine – **Dora Anne Mills**, MD, MPH; Vice President for Clinical Affairs; Director, Center for Excellence in Health Innovation; and Interim Vice President for Research and Scholarship at the University of New England

## CONVENTION 2018 INFORMATION

by Lucy Stinson, Bath-Brunswick Branch

The Bath-Brunswick Branch AAUW looks forward to welcoming AAUW members from across the state to the State Convention April 27-28. After this long winter we expect to show you delightful late April weather and warm, friendly hospitality.

For our out-of-town guests, we have reserved a **block of rooms at The Daniel**, 10 Water Street, Brunswick. Telephone: (207) 373-1824, and the web site is [www.thedanielhotel.com](http://www.thedanielhotel.com). **The AAUW block of rooms will be held only until 6:00 PM, April 19, 2018.** Our rate is \$152 for one queen bed, \$162 for one king bed, \$172 for two double beds (plus tax).

Additionally, there are about 4 beds available in Bath-Brunswick member homes. For more information please contact Lucy Stinson: (207) 443-3954 or [lstinson5@comcast.net](mailto:lstinson5@comcast.net).

If you are seeking alternative accommodations, you could try the following: Type "bandbbrunswickmaine" in your browser. This will bring up just about every establishment from Bath to Freeport: motels, hotels, and B & Bs.



**Friday evening, April 27**, there will be an **informal social gathering at the Curtis Memorial Library's Morrell Room, in Brunswick**. The address for the Library is 23 Pleasant Street, but it is actually situated on the corner of Pleasant and Middle Streets, with the entrances on Middle Street. **The Morrell Room has its own entrance on Middle Street to the left of the main Library entrance.** Wine and sturdy hors d'oeuvres will be supplied, courtesy of the Bath-Brunswick Branch. **We ask for firm commitments from attendees.**

**Saturday, April 28**, will find us at **The Daniel**, 10 Water Street, Brunswick. **Parking is behind the inn** and there is an entrance with an elevator to take you upstairs to the ballroom. The Daniel will provide a light breakfast and will later serve a buffet lunch in the convention meeting space. The meeting room is accessible.

If you are interested in doing some walking or visiting a museum while you are in the area, check out the following websites:

- (1) Bowdoin College, Brunswick – website: [www.bowdoin.edu](http://www.bowdoin.edu).  
Peary MacMillan Arctic Museum and Bowdoin College Museum of Art  
Both are open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- (2) Freeport is about 15 minutes south of Brunswick on I-295.
- (3) Maine Maritime Museum, Bath – website: [www.mainemaritimemuseum.org](http://www.mainemaritimemuseum.org).  
Open every day 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- (4) Popham Beach State Park in Phippsburg is always beautiful, as is
- (5) Reid State Park in Georgetown.



**Registration Form**

**2018 AAUW of Maine Convention**

April 27 – 28, 2018, Brunswick, Maine

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Friday evening – Social Gathering at Curtis Memorial Library

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend the Social Gathering (No Charge)

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I will not attend the Social Gathering

- 2. Registration Fee: \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Saturday – light breakfast at The Daniel Inn \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. Saturday – buffet lunch at The Daniel Inn \$23.00 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5. Optional – Donation to Keep Maine Connected Campaign \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any food restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline: April 18, 2018.**

We hope to offer online registration and payment. See the AAUW Maine website for more information: <https://aauw-me.aauw.net/state-convention/>

Alternatively, please mail the registration form to: Marilyn Leimbach, 9 Wilson Park, Waterville, ME 04901 or email to: [leimbach@gwi.net](mailto:leimbach@gwi.net). Please make checks payable to AAUW Maine.